

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following as the first sentence beneath the title:

This application is a **National Stage** Application of International Application No. PCT/US00/16712, filed Jun. 16, 2000, which claims the benefit of **Provisional** Application No. 60/139,423, filed Jun. 16, 1999, both of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Please add the following as a separate page at the end of the specification:

Abstract.

The invention includes materials and methods for selectively isolating extra-chromosomal nucleic acids from biological materials. The extra-chromosomal nucleic acids isolated are obtained without the use of toxic chemicals or DNA-binding matrices, using a chaotropic agent as a final purification step. It is particularly suited for the rapid isolation of pure, intact plasmid DNA from bacterial cultures.